



# AETC Bases News Clips

## Sheppard AFB, TX



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### **Tops in Blue to present red-hot show at Auditorium**

**By Times Record News**  
**February 5, 2003**

The song and dance that will break out at Memorial Auditorium tonight comes with more than just a little dose of military precision.

In fact, military precision is the name of the game for the Tops in Blue, the Air Force's premier amateur entertainment group.

The 30 members of this entertainment unit set up their own shows. They assemble 36,000 pounds of equipment, including 556 lights. Then they break all 36,000 pounds of it down, including 556 lights. They make their own travel arrangements, tune their own instruments and fix their own equipment. They are their own roadies, their own publicity office, their own technicians.

They're a self-contained entertainment machine.

"Everyone has five to six jobs," 1st Lt. Joni Grunewald told the Times Record News when she and other members of the Tops in Blue performed at Memorial Auditorium in October 2001. "Like our transportation coordinator runs the spotlight during the show. One of the truck drivers is in the show. Everyone does everything."

In fact, at an appearance here in 2000, members of Tops in Blue found themselves searching for a soundboard when one of theirs blew. They made some calls, tracked one down, and the show went on.

Hopefully, no snafus will test their skills for tonight's show, dubbed "Spirit of America."

To make it into a Tops in Blue unit, which is based at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, amateur Air Force vocalists and musicians compete at bases around the world. Thirty were chosen for this show, which will travel across 20 countries to perform more than 130 shows.

Past Tops in Blues performers have entertained audiences at six world fairs, in more than 100 state fairs and festivals, in five movies and on two albums. They've also performed on six Bob Hope television specials, appeared on the "Ed Sullivan Show," and nabbed a spot at the 2002 Daytona 500.

Tops in Blues' mission is to entertain, but the vocalists and musicians have a secondary purpose in performing these shows - to build the morale and patriotism of troops serving at home and overseas.

When Tops in Blue toured through the area in October 2001, it was just after the 9-11 terrorist attacks. The group was in Europe at the time, but then the attacks occurred and the group found its European leg of the tour canceled. Members of Tops in Blue were stranded in Europe for a time because they couldn't fly home. But then the unit regrouped, added a new patriotic segment to the show to pay tribute to those who lost their lives in 9-11, and found a renewed sense of purpose to continue with their mission of supporting the Air Force's troops.

Tonight's Tops in Blue show is free, but Sheppard Air Force Base Public Affairs Lt. Nathan Broshear said to get to the show early because seats fill up fast.

*Times Record News*  
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### Passing bond issue, sales tax our duty

By: Phil Brown

February 05, 2003

#### **On Feb. 11, we will go to the polls and cast our ballots on a school bond issue and a sales tax to fix up our aging schools.**

Newspaper people are expected to have special insights into the outcome of elections like these, I guess by virtue of having perused the issues at a closer range than most of the populace.

I wouldn't attempt a guess at how the issues will fare. A few years ago, when we were electing legislators, I got lucky and picked all the winners in this column.

I figure I used up all of my luck in that one election and wouldn't even attempt to do it again. All I can say about the school bond issue and sales tax is vote yes.

Some people have expressed a fear that the money for the schools won't be handled properly, and some others say they are going to vote "no" because they don't have any kids in school.

Well, all I can say is that we as citizens of this fine little city have an obligation - yes, it is our duty - to provide adequate educational facilities for the children of the town.

Not only are attractive schools and good teachers another link in the chain that could help retain Vance Air Force Base, but those new industries and businesses everyone wants so badly will look at our schools too, and what they see could easily tip the balance one way or the other.

And the idea that the people in charge are all crooks and that they will somehow misdirect the money to someplace else is ridiculous. They are just as anxious as all of the rest of us are to see our schools get as big a bang as they can out of all the bond and tax bucks.

Ironically, it being election time, with the municipal elections coming up March 4, I was thumbing through the yellowed and ancient looking copies of a 69-year-old miniature newspaper the other day published by John C. Hopley, a local printer in the 1930s, who got a kick out of poking the powers that be with a sharp stick every now and then.

Apparently from what he wrote from time to time, his printing business wasn't doing too well. Someone should have told him his business might have been more profitable if he would have quit making his potential customers mad at him, and lightened up on the booze.

Hopley's print shop was located in the 400 block of East Maine. The street was named after the battleship Maine sunk during the Spanish American war, and the battleship was named after the state of Maine - hence the "e" on the end.

*Enid News & Eagle*

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**On Feb. 11, we will go to the polls and cast our ballots on a school bond issue and a sales tax to fix up our aging schools, Con't.**

Hopley didn't agree. As far as he was concerned it was "Main Street" without the "e".

He loved to chide those who named the street by putting an "e" on the names of other streets, such as "Broadway" or "Randolphe," when he used them in his newspaper.

Anyway, back to election time. The name of this particular newspaper published by Hopley in 1934 was The Enid Morning Snooz and East Main Street News.

It is difficult to know for sure, after reading Hopley's little newspapers, just exactly who the candidates were for mayor in 1934.

In one issue, in big type on the front page he lists O.E. Zink and Frank Hawkins for Mayor of Main Street, which I guess could be different than the mayor of Enid. I first met "Ozzie" Zink in the 1950s when he was head man at the Chamber of Commerce, (I presume they were one and the same) and Frank Hawkins had a grocery store in the 100 block of East Randolph

Hopley describes Hawkins as "a well known and influential prune peddler on Randolphe Street," and Zink as "an equally respectable bull-loany broker on Broadwaye."

At the same time, on the back page of another issue of the little newspaper, he gives Ed Fleming a sort of back-handed endorsement in the race for mayor by writing: "We recommend for the next mayor of Enid, Ed Fleming. It ain't his fault that his father was a Banker. Ed got out of his bank and started a respectable business for himself.

"We know considerable ourself about the injustice of judging sons by the actions of their Fathers. For instance, Lindbergh's father (presumably Charles A. Lindbergh) was a congressman, but the disease was not hereditary. Lindy's OK."

*Enid News & Eagle*

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# AETC Bases News Clips

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### **The fair, the foul at Vance**

By: Robert Barron, Staff Writer

February 05, 2003

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#### **Report outlines strengths, weaknesses.**

Public approval of \$25.1 million in Enid school infrastructure improvements is the single-most important action residents can take to strengthen Vance Air Force Base's case during the 2005 round of base closings.

That statement is underlined in the Vance Baseline Report, by The Spectrum Group, released to Enid City Commission Tuesday.

Enid voters will decide Feb. 11 on three measures, which, if approved, would provide \$32.3 million altogether to pay for school and street improvements.

The \$25.1 million for Enid Public Schools includes a two-part bond issue package to provide \$18.8 million in improvements. The package would address technology and transportation upgrades as well as building renovations and additions.

Enid High School improvements will be funded through \$6.3 million in proceeds from a quarter-cent sales tax. Another \$2 million in sales tax money would go to six other school districts - Chisholm, Pioneer-Pleasant Vale, Drummond, Kremlin-Hillsdale, Waukomis and Garber.

Another \$5.3 million of the sales tax proceeds would fund improvements to city streets.

Quality-of-life issues will be among the most important items in the 2005 round of base closings, making next week's election important to the efforts to save Vance, said Mike Cooper, chairman of Vance Task Force, who quoted the study.

Cooper made his remarks Tuesday while briefing commissioners on the assessment by The Spectrum Group, a consulting firm hired by the city of Enid to provide information during the Base Closure and Realignment Commission process. It is headed by retired Air Force Gen. J.B. Davis, who was a member of the 1995 BRAC commission.

City commissioners voted to pay the group \$10,000 a month through the process, including an initial \$60,000.

The report discusses a number of improvements, made to Vance through partnerships with the city during the last two decades, including:

\* New land, totaling 158 acres to extend the base eastward for environmental cleanup and parachute training purposes and another eight acres donated earlier by the community.

*Enid News & Eagle*

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### **Report outlines strengths, weaknesses, Con't.**

\* A rental housing pool, involving 28 already rented, pre-screened homes and apartments for military personnel and families.

\* Joint use of Enid Woodring Regional Airport, without cost to the Air Force, for practice landings and takeoffs.

\* An additional 13 acres of land adjoining the family housing area to support a new Air Force housing privatization program in the 2002-03 budget.

\* A new road bypass serving the base.

\* Education partnership supplements for military personnel and families at Northwestern Oklahoma State University-Enid and Northern Oklahoma College-Enid.

\* Connection of Vance's sewer system to the city system for final sewer treatment.

\* A \$1.2 million addition-renovation to Eisenhower Elementary School, financed by a quarter cent sales tax.

In the past three base closure rounds, Vance competed effectively among Air Force pilot training bases, scoring especially well on unencumbered air space, lowest training cost per graduate pilot and on infrastructure overhead and, as a result, on military value.

The 2005 BRAC round will see even greater pressure on quality-of-life issues, schools, housing and encroachment, according to the report.

The secretary of defense also will seek additional efficiencies through joint solutions and could have Vance competing against Navy and Marine training bases in Mississippi and Florida, as well as Columbus (Miss.) Air Force Base and Laughlin Air Force Base in Del Rio, Texas.

The report's conclusions considered Vance strengths as:

\* The number and configuration of runways.

\* Size and proximity of training airspace.

\* Importance of Vance's primary mission and continuing requirement for it.

\* The cost of pilot production.

\* State and local legislative initiatives.

***Enid News & Eagle***

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### **Report outlines strengths, weaknesses, Con't.**

- \* Improvements in availability of higher education.
- \* Broad community initiatives, under the auspices of Vance Development Authority, to strengthen Vance and to reduce base facility costs wherever possible.

Vance's weaknesses, according to the report, are:

- \* Continued long-term availability of affordable, quality off-base housing, especially for enlisted personnel.
- \* Condition of Enid schools.
- \* Pace and strength of legislative actions.
- \* Encroachment and solid mechanisms for ensuring long-term prevention of encroachment.
- \* Lack of formalized base involvement in some community planning activities.

Because of a number of "save the base activities" around the country, criteria that did not have much impact in the past may well serve as a tie-breaker this year, according to the report.

Community contribution to quality of life for troops also could impact the results. There have been considerable improvements since the last base-closing round, and there are more on the immediate horizon, the report said. The Spectrum Group recommended community leaders aggressively pursue the recommendations in the report to ensure full credit for Enid's effort.

"Our bottom line is that the mission of Vance is extremely important to our Air Force, that Vance is a fine facility which has served us well in the past and can continue to do so in the future. While it is possible to move the undergraduate pilot training mission to another location, the availability of good training airspace and other strengths should keep the mission at Vance," the report states.



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### Letters to the Editor

#### Vance important to Enid's survivability

What are our priorities?

The 850+ members of the Machinists Union and their families have deep roots in this community. We work here and raise our kids here, so it could be argued we have a "Bigger Stake in the Game" for the bond and tax issue than other people.

But that isn't the case.

Everyone has a "Stake in this Game." The very future of our city hangs in the balance. Vance Air Force Base is the keystone of this community. Vance AFB accounts for thousands of good paying jobs here in Enid, and our money stays here, circulating through the local economy many times over. Closure of the base would decimate the community's economic base and adversely effect most of the remaining jobs in Enid. Vance AFB must be "Priority One."

Union members believe in working together for a brighter future. Our members here in Enid will be joined by the full power of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, AFL-CIO to keep Vance open. We worked hard through the last round of base closures, and we will redouble our efforts for the future of Enid.

Our children and grandchildren are the most important members of our community. Education is more important than ever, and they deserve the improvements this bond issue will provide.

Many problems raised in the last round of base closures were "quality of life" issues, such as good schools and good roads. All citizens of Enid should band together to do what it takes to make a bright future for our kids and our community. I believe Enid is a community that will do the right thing.

I strongly urge every IAM member and everyone in Enid to vote "Yes" Feb. 1, 2003.

Jerry McCutte  
Directing Business Rep

#### Vote yes Feb. 11, 2003

The Enid City Council and the Enid Board of Education have joined together in an unprecedented effort to improve the educational infrastructure of our school system.

The Board of Education has spent over a year studying capital needs for the Enid School System. Moneys needed exceed the district's bonding capacity, and the City Council has proposed a joint sales tax program which will provide the school system with the added moneys needed, and continue the City's arterial street improvement program.

The school system program is worthy in and of itself, of course. Providing quality education for our children is one of our community's accomplishment for over a century, and we certainly need to continue to do so.

Yet the next round of Base Realignment and Closure is coming soon, and Vance AFB is at risk. Since there are no "bad bases" left, more weight will be given to host communities, especially school systems. Hence the importance of passing both the school bond questions and the city sales-tax question. The hard fact is that Enid does not compare favorably to other host communities unless we pass these questions.

At critical crossroads in the past — such as the closure of Champlin Refinery by Union Pacific Corp., or the Oil Bust — there was little the community could do in response.

But this time, we can help ourselves; vote "Yes" for Enid, Vance and our kids.

John L. Cromwell  
Enid

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# AETC Bases News Clips Sheppard AFB, TX



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## Babies to get help from March of Dimes

Lee B. Weaver  
Times Record News

Baby's first steps come sooner than you'd think.

Before the diapers and the bottles and the toddling — way before the toddling — the proper care and feeding of a baby begins before childbirth and, ideally, before pregnancy.

Sadly though, more than 1,900 Wichita County babies are born prematurely each year. And more than 50 will die before their first birthday because of complications from premature birth or low birth weight.

Against this backdrop of grim statistics and desperate circumstances, March of Dimes officials announced an ambitious local and national campaign on Tuesday to fight premature birth at the organization's 2003 WalkAmerica Leadership Luncheon, held at the Wichita Falls Country Club.

In a virtual payback for a job well done during the 2002 campaign — which raised more than \$90,000 — the

March of Dimes awarded a \$75,000 grant to the Community Health Care Center to fund prenatal and pre-pregnancy programs at the East-side Drive facility.

Nurse practitioner Gillian Thomas will run the new programs.

"We at Community Health Care Center will do everything in our power to motivate, educate and provide cost-efficient perinatal, prenatal and pre-pregnancy care," Thomas said. "The utmost goal of the program is to improve access to care."

The grant will help fund early prenatal care, nutritional education, low birth rate prevention and awareness training of the dangers of alcohol, tobacco and drug use during pregnancy, Thomas said.

Doug Anderson, executive director for the North Texas Division Texas Chapter of the March of Dimes also announced a five-year, \$75 million national campaign to fight premature birth.

"Too many babies are born too small, too soon," Anderson said.

Cingular Wireless manager Cindy Smith challenged the 100-plus business and community leaders in attendance to match — or exceed — her company's fund-raising

efforts in their own workplaces. Cingular led all fund-raising teams in the 2002 campaign, collecting \$21,500 toward the cause.

Brig. Gen. Arthur Rooney, 82nd Training Wing commander at Sheppard Air Force Base and the featured speaker at the event, took Smith's challenge literally.

Noting that Sheppard finished a distant 10th to Cingular in the 2002 fund drive, Rooney was nothing short of commanding in his prediction for the 2003 campaign.

"That will not be the case this year," Rooney said. "We only know how to do one thing at Sheppard, and that's to reach and achieve goals. We will achieve our goal. And we know who we're after."

Rooney even pledged to follow United Market Street manager Larry Martin's example of putting on a dress at work to garner — or is it garter? — donations last year.

"If approved (by base lawyers), I will be dressed as a woman and bagging groceries at the exchange," he said.

The 2003 WalkAmerica event is scheduled for May 8 in downtown Wichita Falls. For more information about the 2003 campaign, contact Mary Helen Maskill at 723-0372.



Thomas

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# AETC Bases News Clips

## AFIT Wright-Patterson AFB OH



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## Defense plan bodes well for AFIT

Funding, staffing and enrollment would all rise

**By Mei-Ling Hopgood**  
Washington Bureau

**WASHINGTON** | President Bush's proposed \$379.9 billion defense budget for 2004 includes a hard-fought for boost for Wright-Patterson's Air Force Institute of Technology, an organization that six years ago was on the verge of shutting down.

The military budget released Monday for the fiscal year that starts Oct. 1 is \$15.3 billion more than this year's budget, a 4.2 percent increase, and emphasizes the development of high-tech war weaponry, including unmanned spy aircraft and missile defense. Combined with the current year's 11 percent boost, the proposed increase is the biggest defense buildup since President Reagan's in the 1980s.

The Pentagon will likely seek more money soon. Defense officials plan to ask Congress to pass a supplemental spending bill of \$15 billion to pay for the war on terrorism, and still more if the nation goes to war in Iraq.

In the proposed 2004 budget, military personnel will get targeted pay raises from 2 percent to 6 percent — the higher raises focused on higher-ranking, harder-to-retain officers — and civilians would get 2 percent raises. Military personnel who live in private housing will continue to see a decline in the out-of-pocket costs for housing.

The budget keeps the department's civilian work force at about its current level.

In the overall scheme of the defense budget, the increased support for AFIT, the Air Force's graduate studies school, is small, but significant. The current \$100 million budget could increase \$20 million to \$30 million starting in October, said Col. Mike Heil, commandant for the institute.

In 1997, the community discovered that the Air Force was planning to close the institute. Civic leaders and Ohio's congressional delegation lobbied against closure.

The federal budget unveiled Monday includes plans to increase AFIT's available graduate-education slots from 500 to 1,235 this coming fiscal year. By 2009, the slots could increase to 2,500.

The 400-member staff could almost double by 2009, if current plans are carried out, Heil said. The institute also is teaming up with the Navy's post-graduate school, so naval students will also attend AFIT and vice versa. Enlisted personnel also can now attend.

"This is a great day for this national asset that's at Wright-Patterson," said Rep. Dave Hobson, R-Springfield, who passed initial legislation to prevent the institute from closing.

*Dayton Daily News*

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# AETC Bases News Clips

## AFIT Wright-Patterson AFB OH



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### **Defense plan bodes well for AFIT, Con't.**

Hobson, Sen. Mike DeWine, R-Ohio, and other member of the Ohio delegation worked to build support for the institute and last year secured \$13 million for renovations at the institute's engineering and management school.

Hobson credited Air Force Secretary James Roche for supporting the institute in the end.

William Hancock AFIT spokesman, added, "When the rest of Wright-Patterson is talking about reduction of civilian manpower, here at AFIT we're ramping up for bigger and better things."

Also in the 2004 budget, Wright-Pat is scheduled to get \$10.5 million for a new 144-room dormitory.

Overall, the Air Force's proposed budget increases about 4 percent to \$93.5 billion. That includes the continuing purchase of the next-generation jet fighter, the F/A-22 Raptor, a project that once seemed at risk and that has struggled with cost overruns. The Air Force would get \$5.2 billion to buy 22 jets, an operation managed out of Wright-Pat.

The Pentagon is asking for more money for science and technology research than it sought for this year, but less money than than Congress eventually allotted for such research.

Thus begins the yearly battle for Wright-Pat boosters in the community.

Overall, Air Force officials say spending on science and technology — which affects the Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright-Patterson — will increase \$100 million above last year's proposed budget. But that is largely thanks to the National Aerospace Initiative, a program spread over Air Force research labs nationwide.

"The money going through Dayton for science and technology is relatively flat," said Michael Gessel, vice president for federal government programs at the Dayton Development Coalition. "But this is a time when we need to be increasing science and technology investment, and the status quo is not good enough to meet tomorrow's technology challenges."

Community leaders said they would once again work to boost the science and technology budget; Congress always makes drastic changes in the budget before it is approved.

The budget also provides for scaled-down air patrols over the United States. Cost-saving measures in the president's budget include cutting the Army's Abrams tank and Crusader artillery gun, consolidating the B-1 bomber program, and retiring aging aircraft and ships.

Critics of the president's budget immediately questioned the need to spend \$7.7 billion on missile defense.

***Dayton Daily News***

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# AETC Bases News Clips

## AFIT Wright-Patterson AFB OH



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### **Defense plan bodes well for AFIT, Con't.**

"I think it is a mistake to spend money on deployment of a national missile defense system before it has been tested and shown to work," said Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., ranking minority member on the Senate Armed Forces Committee.

Other defense budget highlights:

- The Navy would get \$3.5 billion to buy 42 of its F/A-18 Super Hornets. The multiservice Joint Strike Fighter would get \$4.4 billion. The Pentagon would spend \$1.1 billion to buy 11 V-22 Ospreys, including the first two special operations variants to be used by the Air Force. Another \$544 million would be spent on V-22 testing and evaluation. The Air Force would get \$3.7 billion to buy 11 more C-17 transport planes.
- \$610 million for the Global Hawk high-altitude surveillance plane, which operates without a pilot; \$250 million for the Predator unmanned reconnaissance aircraft. Another \$275 million would go to developing a drone aircraft for attack missions.
- The Navy would get a \$2.7 billion increase for shipbuilding, including \$1.5 billion for a new aircraft carrier with an upgraded design that could require a smaller crew. The Navy would get \$1.2 billion to convert four Trident nuclear ballistic missile submarines to conventional subs capable of carrying more than 150 Tomahawk cruise missiles each and a contingent of special operations forces.
- The Army's next-generation Comanche reconnaissance helicopter would get \$1.1 billion in development funds.



# AETC Bases News Clips

## LUKE AFB, AZ



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### **Challenger Space Center memorials**

■ Today at 11 a.m. President Bush and NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe will pay tribute to the astronauts of the space shuttle Columbia. The memorial service at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston will be shown live in the Challenger Space Center's theater. Attendees are asked to arrive by 10:30 a.m. so that the theater is quiet when the ceremony begins. Free admission.

■ At 7:15 p.m. Gov. Janet Napolitano and Brig. Gen. Philip M. Breedlove, commander of the 56th Fighter Wing, Luke Air Force Base, will speak at the center's memorial service.

■ The center is at 21170 N. 83rd Ave., Peoria, north of Union Hills, off Loop 101. The center will be open until 8 p.m. to allow the public an opportunity to pay respects. The public is invited to bring candles, flowers and other tributes.

■ For more information go to: [www.azchallenger.org](http://www.azchallenger.org).

*The Arizona Republic*

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# AETC Bases News Clips

## LUKE AFB, AZ



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### **Arizonans gather in Peoria to honor fallen astronauts**

**By Monica Mendoza**

The Arizona Republic

Feb. 5, 2003

PEORIA - Gov. Janet Napolitano urged Arizonans, especially children, to remember the lives of the Columbia astronauts, not their deaths.

Napolitano spoke Tuesday evening at the Challenger Space Center to a crowd of about 200 as even the air stood still for the candles lighted in memory of the crew of the space shuttle.

"These people were all people who set goals for themselves, who lived their lives to the fullest to obtain their goals and who were doing what they loved last week and on Saturday," she said.

Since Saturday when the nation learned about Columbia's breakup over Texas, the Challenger Space Center in Peoria has served as a sanctuary and place for Arizonans to mourn.

It has been filled with sorrow and tears, said Sandi Hicks, executive director of the center.

The center opened about three years ago as a living memorial to the space shuttle Challenger, which exploded shortly after takeoff in 1986, killing seven astronauts, including a schoolteacher.

"The centers were built to celebrate how they lived," Hicks said.

Tuesday's memorial coincided with a national memorial in Houston.

Luke Air Force Base's commander, Col. Philip Breedlove, speaking in Peoria, echoed President Bush's message at the national ceremony that the space program should carry on despite the risks.

"Tonight we call them (Columbia crew) patriots and heroes," Breedlove said. "The legacy of the Columbia crew will truly inspire many generations to come."

Sunrise High School student Emily Cox, 17, said she will always remember where she was when she heard of the tragedy

"I do think it will be something remembered as a sad time, but as a memorial to the people who showed bravery and courage throughout the mission," said Cox, who with her sister Holly sang the national anthem.

*The Arizona Republic*

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# AETC Bases News Clips

## LUKE AFB, AZ



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### Arizonans gather in Peoria to honor fallen astronauts

Earlier Tuesday, about 50 people were drawn to the Challenger Space Center, many placing flowers and notes in the center's rotunda, to listen as Bush spoke during a live broadcast from the national service.

They sat in the theater, wiping their eyes and embracing as NASA officials remembered each of Columbia's seven lost astronauts.

Children from Avondale Elementary School had a special connection with one of the astronauts.

Lt. Col. Michael Anderson was a third-grader at Avondale Elementary in 1968 when his father was stationed at Luke Air Force Base. His sister, Brenda Daniely, works at the school. Anderson carried an Avondale school T-shirt into space with him that he planned to return to the school after the mission.

"The students describe him as 'our astronaut,' " said Cathy Stafford, Avondale Elementary School District superintendent. Students watched the national memorial service at Estrella Mountain Community College.

In closing Tuesday, Napolitano read the names of Columbia astronauts as people blew out the flames on their candles. Single file, the crowd walked silently into the center for one last look and moment of silence at the memorial of flowers, drawings and model rocket ships.

"Godspeed, Columbia," the governor said.

#### Related links

- [Hope shines in astronaut farewell](#)
- [No confirmed shuttle debris found in Arizona, FBI says](#)
- [NASA was warned of shuttle wing weakness](#)
- [Arizonans gather in Peoria to honor fallen astronauts](#)
- [Astronauts 'the life of the party'](#)
- [Thoughts from Republic readers and more in Opinions >>](#)

#### Graphics

- [Graphic: Launch damage](#)
- [Graphic: Last mission of the first shuttle](#)

#### Multimedia

- [Video: President Bush, families mourn shuttle victims](#)
- [Slideshow: Space shuttle tragedy](#)
- [Message board: Share your thoughts](#)
- [Guest Book: Remember the crew of the Columbia](#)
- [AP Video: President addresses nation](#)

*The Arizona Republic*

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